

Reconsideration of the rejections as set forth in the Office Action mailed July 17, 2007 is respectfully requested.

Please amend the claims to read as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A system for electronic supply chain management and collaborative planning, including a plurality of hubs, remotely coupled to each other; a set of information stored in a database coupled to each said hub, wherein said set of information is owned by business entities relatively proximate to each said hub;
a set of regional authorities controlling access to said set of information;
a computer program coupled to each said hub that distinguishes between simple tasks and complex tasks;
a server coupled to at least one of said hubs, wherein said server is dedicated to performing said distinguished simple tasks; and
a server coupled to at least one of said hubs, wherein said server is dedicated to performing said distinguished complex tasks.

2. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 1, wherein at least one hub is designated as a said regional authority with respect to synchronizing said set of information stored at other said hubs.

3. (Original) A system as in claim 2, wherein said set of information is synchronized by restricting which hub in said plurality of hubs can perform a write operation to the set of information.

4. (Original) A system as in claim 2, wherein said regional authority includes a token, wherein said token permits said regional authority to exercise control.

5. (Original) A system as in claim 2, wherein the designation of said regional authority is determined by at least one of the following: (1) subnet location, (2), class of goods, (3) proximity to a valued client and (4) network locations as measured by geography or network location.

6.(Original) A system as in claim 2, wherein the designation of said regional authority is responsive to which hub in said plurality of hubs is experiencing more business activity than other hubs in said plurality of hubs.

7.(Original) A system as in claim 6, wherein said business activity is measured by at least one of the following:
(1) number of transactions, (2) number of units being trading, and (3) monetary value of transactions.

8.(Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein said information regards an electronic transaction performed by said hub or a business entity that conducts business using said hub.

9. (Previously presented) A method for processing transactions at a hub, including steps of receiving messages from a user; parsing said message and determining the relative complexity of tasks associated with said message; separating messages that require processing from those messages that do not require processing; sending a message requiring processing to a heavyweight server, wherein said message requiring processing is processed and sent to a user; and sending a message not requiring processing to a lightweight server, wherein said message not requiring processing is sent to a user.
10. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 9, including steps of receiving and processing a set of information from said user regarding a message requiring processing at said heavyweight server.
11. (Original) A method as in claim 9, wherein said step of processing includes performing a series of calculations and storing a result in a database.
12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) A memory storing information including instructions, the instructions executable by a processing, the instructions including receiving a message from a user; parsing said message and determining the relative complexity of tasks associated with said message; separating messages that require processing from those messages that do not require processing; sending a message requiring processing to a heavyweight server, wherein said message requiring processing is processed and sent to a user; and sending a message not requiring processing to a lightweight server, wherein said message not requiring processing is sent to a user.

15. (Previously presented) A memory as in claim 14, including instructions for receiving and processing a set of information from said user regarding a message requiring processing at said heavyweight server.

16. (Original) A memory as in claim 14 wherein said instruction for processing includes a series of calculations and storing a result in a database.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A system for electronic supply chain management and collaborative planning, including a plurality of hubs, remotely coupled to each other; a set of regional authorities controlling access to a set of information divided into a set of subsets of information as determined by said regional authorities, whereby each of said subsets of information is stored in a database coupled to each said hub; a set of business entities, whereby each said subset of information is owned by a business entity relatively proximate to each said hub; a computer program coupled to each said hub that distinguishes between simple tasks and complex tasks; a server coupled to at least one of said hubs, wherein said server is dedicated to performing said distinguished simple tasks; and

a server coupled to at least one of said hubs, wherein said server is dedicated to performing said distinguished complex tasks.

20. (Previously presented) A system for electronic supply chain management and collaborative planning, including a plurality of remotely coupled hubs, each of said hubs each including a database;
- a set of regional authorities for controlling access to a set of information, said set of regional authorities dividing access control of said set of information among said set of designated regional authorities;
- a division of said set of information between said hubs stored in each said hub's database;
- a communication exchange between a first regional authority and a second regional authority, wherein said first regional authority requests instructions for obtaining data under the control of the second regional authority.